

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 238202

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM NICOSIA OCT 18

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROP, SWEL, CY, GE, US

SUBJECT: AHEPA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CYPRIOTS

1. DURING ITS RECENT VISIT TO CYPRUS, AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION (AHEPA) GROUP EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SETTING UP PROGRAM WHICH WOULD EXTEND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CYPRIOTS WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM RECENT HOSTILITIES. ALTHOUGH OFFERS WERE MADE PRIMARILY IN CONTEXT OF ASSISTING GREEK CYPRIOT REFUGEES, AHEPA THROUGHOUT VISIT SHOWED DESIRE TO HELP GREEK CYPRIOT POPULATION IN GENERAL, VIRTUALLY ALL OF WHOM HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED. ONE SPECIFIC OFFER WE KNOW OF WAS TO PROVIDE PLASTIC SURGERY FOR BURN VICTIMS.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT MAKING LOW-KEY INQUIRY CONCERNING AHEPA'S THINKING ON PROGRAM TO AID VICTIMS OF THE CYPRUS CONFLICT IN FORM OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT, REHABILITATION, HOSPITALIZATION AND TRANSPORTATION TO US IF NEED BE. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IF ANY SUCH PLAN COULD BE AS GENERAL AS POSSIBLE, THAT IS, BE OPEN TO ANY CYPRIOT INJURED AS A RESULT OF EVENTS STEMMING FROM JULY 15 COUP D'ETAT AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS. OFFER WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO BE LIMITED IN TERMS OF FUNDING, AND AHEPA WOULD DETERMINE

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HOW MUCH MONEY IT WILLING TO ALLOCATE TO PROGRAM.

3. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY BELIEVES PROGRAM OF THIS SORT MIGHT BE

RECEIVED FAVORABLY NOW IN CYPRUS AND REDOUND TO AHEPA'S CREDIT, WE HAVE SPECIFIC CASE IN POINT WHICH MAKES DECISION OF INTEREST TO EMBASSY. WE HAVE LEARNED OF CYPRIOT WHO WAS ARRESTED BY SAMPSON GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING JULY 15 COUP. INDIVIDUAL WAS SHOT THROUGH BOTH LEGS AND IS PRESENTLY IN SEMI-CRIPPLED STATE. COMMUNIST PARTY OF CYPRUS (AKEL) HAS ARRANGED TO FLY HIM TO GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GDR) FOR GRATIS MEDICAL TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION. AKEL IS MAKING POLITICAL CAPITAL OUT OF THIS HUMANITARIAN PROJECT AND APPARENTLY PLANS TO USE IT AND SIMILAR CASES AS MEANS OF CULTIVATING SUPPORT AMONG GROUPS NOT NORMALLY FRIENDLY TO IT.

4. INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION HAS TOLD US HE IS VERY APPREHENSIVE OF TRAVELING TO GDR AND ACCEPTING AID FROM COMMUNISTS. HOWEVER, HE OBVIOUSLY CANNOT AFFORD TO PASS UP OPPORTUNITY REGAIN HEALTH AND, IF NO POSSIBILITY EXISTS FOR TREATMENT THROUGH OTHER MEANS, WILL ACCEPT AKEL'S HUMANITARIAN PROPOSAL.

5. EMBASSY DOES NOT ANTICIPATE LARGE NUMBER OF CASES SUCH AS THIS WHERE POLITICAL OVERTONES EXIST NOR DOES IT ADVOCATE COMPETING WITH AKEL AND FRIENDS JUST FOR SAKE OF COMPETITION. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO OFFER SOME SORT OF ALTERNATIVE TO THOSE VICTIMS OF CYPRUS CIVIL COMMOTION AND WAR WHO ARE BEING OFFERED FREE TREATMENT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH THEY FIND POLITICALLY DISTASTEFUL.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON ABOVE ASAP. CRAWFORD
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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